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tional law to have a section on "The Law of War," except as a historical reminiscence.

The sections of the book which treat of belligerency and the Monroe doctrine are exceptionally interesting at the present time. On the latter subject Professor Lawrence takes essentially the general American view, that the Monroe doctrine has the same place as an American policy that "the balance of power" has in Europe. His view of belligerency might well be read by those who are trying to rush through Congress the resolutions recognizing the Cubans as belligerents.

We should like to quote here, if space would permit, the whole of sections 240, 241 and 242, on peace and the means of preserving peace. Professor Lawrence's views on the subject of arbitration are those of the most advanced advocates of this means of preventing war and of ultimately abolishing it altogether. After giving an account of the growth of sentiment in its favor in both the United States and Great Britain, a brief statement of what arbitration has already accomplished, and a résumé of some of the efforts put forth to secure a permanent treaty of arbitration between these two countries, he recommends in the strongest terms the negotiation of such a treaty. We can not refrain from quoting this admirable paragraph:

"Such a treaty between Great Britain and the United States would have an enormous effect, especially if it provided beforehand for the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal. Without the slightest wish to belittle other countries, we may say in sober truth that these two nations are marked out for empire by the extent of their dominions, the freedom of their institutions, and the energy and governing ability of their people. The assurance of continual peace between them means that the war-demon is exorcised from a large and rapidly increasing portion of the human race, their arbitral tribunal will in time develop into a permanent court, and the permanent court will soon come to possess a permanent code. Other nations, burdened almost beyond endurance by military and naval armaments, will follow in their footsteps. First, they will adopt the method of arbitration in a steadily increasing number of instances. Then they will regard their war preparations as too heavy an insurance against evils less and less likely to occur, and will refuse to bear the strain of them any longer. They, too, will then be ready for their permanent court, and for the general disarmament which will release the springs of industry, and abolish the hated blood-tax. From a number of courts with jurisdiction over groups of States, one great court with jurisdiction over civilized humanity may at length spring and when it comes into being means will be found to arm it with a force which shall compel obedience to its decisions. (Professor Lawrence might have substituted for these last words the following: No force will ever be thought of as necessary to compel obedience to its decisions.—Ed.) The evolution of perpetual peace must go on by slow degrees. We can not hope to see the time when war will be but a dim memory of an uncouth past. Yet we can bring it nearer by persistent effort to help on the cause of international brotherhood in our own day and generation. With the opportunity before us of binding together the two great branches of the English-speaking people in a permanent league of amity and good will, we have only to do our plain and simple duty and we shall not have lived in vain."

#### LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND PEACE ASSOCIATION.

At the regular meeting of the Directors of the American Peace Society, March 23, the following letter, received some time before, was read. The President of the Society, Robert Treat Paine, was requested to prepare and send a suitable response.

40 & 41 Outer Temple, Strand,  
London, W. C.

*To the President of the American Peace Society:*

DEAR SIR—We are desired by the Executive Committee of the above-named Association to address you in reference to the very serious incidents which have occurred during the last few weeks,—affecting the relations of Great Britain and the United States.

The British and the American Peace Societies have, during that period, been united by the same purpose—that of making every effort to prevent the growth of enmity and discord between the two peoples.

You will have observed from our minutes, published in Concord, that so soon as the Message of President Cleveland was published in this country, our Committee held a special meeting, and re-affirmed the necessity of settling the Venezuela boundary question by a resort to the principle of Arbitration.

You are also aware, that, for the last three years, we have continually addressed communications to the British Government, calling its attention to the desirability of thus settling a long standing dispute which could not, honorably and satisfactorily, be arranged by any other method.

We are glad to take this opportunity of re-stating that our attention was first called to this dispute by an American Society,—“The Universal Peace Union,” which informed us that Venezuela desired a resort to arbitration in this matter.

About the same time that our special meeting, on the 21st December, took place, a meeting of the “American Peace Society” was also held, when resolutions were adopted in reference to the serious international differences which had arisen. The Committee has read those Resolutions with great satisfaction, and desires to express its sense of their high value, as eminently calculated to awaken in the hearts and consciences of the two peoples a sense of the duty owing to each other.

Our Committee unites with the American Peace Society in the belief that “Christianity, civilization and humanity condemn not merely war, but threats of war,” and believes that those words express the convictions of all the other Peace Societies in America.

Our Committee further consider that, on both sides of the Atlantic, every effort must be made “to maintain inviolate the long existing and steadily growing sentiments of amity and peace between the English-speaking nations.”

Our Committee especially rejoices to observe that there has been manifested a strong desire to come to a friendly understanding respecting the disputed question of the Venezuela boundary,—both in the British and in the American press. Vast numbers of letters and articles have appeared containing suggestions having the same end in view.

Arrangements are being made, in which our Associa-

tion is taking part, to evoke from the public here a general declaration of good-will to the American people and the United States as a kindred nation. It is hoped that this movement of international amity will so far influence public opinion here as to induce our own Government to be willing to meet and deal with this comparatively small difficulty in a broad and conciliatory spirit.

At the same time we take this opportunity of suggesting that the friends of peace have much to do in educating the public mind in both countries in sentiments of international fraternity and solidarity, as well as in a conviction that permanent measures must be adopted to avert the danger of international conflict. The recent experiences seem to make it more than ever incumbent upon us all to press forward the adoption of an Arbitration Treaty, and the constitution of the High Court of nations for the settlement of international disputes.

We remain, with great esteem and regard,

Yours faithfully,

HODGSON PRATT,  
J. F. GREEN.

25th January, 1896.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The movement for a great national conference at Washington in the interests of a permanent system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain has at last taken definite shape. A committee of distinguished citizens of a number of leading cities has sent out invitations to more than a thousand prominent men in all the States of the Union to attend such a conference to be held on the 22d and 23d inst. We have not yet seen the details of the arrangements for speakers, etc., but the character of the men who have undertaken to organize the conference is sufficient assurance that everything will be thoroughly planned, and that the meeting will be one of the most important ever held in this country.

The Interparliamentary Peace Bureau at Berne has published in French and sent to the several powers an "Essay on the Organization of International Arbitration" by Senator Descamps of Belgium, who was President of the Interparliamentary Peace Conference held at Brussels last September. The essay covers more than fifty printed folio pages, and discusses the whole subject of international arbitration, from its basis in right and justice up to the establishment of a permanent international court of arbitration. It is worthy of the careful attention of all students of the subject. There is printed as an appendix to the essay a "Plan for the Institution of a Permanent Court of International Arbitration," adopted by the Interparliamentary Union at its Brussels Conference. Senator Descamps was charged by the conference with the duty of sending a copy of this plan to each of the powers, and in carrying out this charge he has prepared this able and interesting essay.

We have received from the Honorary Secretary of the

International Law Association, Mr. Joseph G. Alexander, the Report of the Seventeenth Conference of the Association held at Brussels from the first to the fourth of October, last year. The Conference, presided over by Sir Richard Webster, was one of the most successful ever held by the Association and the Report, which covers 314 pages, contains an interesting and exhaustive account of its proceedings. It contains a full list of the officers and members of the Association, of the officers and members of the Brussels Conference, and of the papers and reports made to the Conference. The subject of international arbitration had a large place in the deliberations and this Report contains the rules on the subject proposed by the special committee appointed the previous year, together with a longer and more exhaustive study of the subject by Professor Corsi. The sections of the Report which treat of the regulation of the liquor traffic in Africa, of territorial waters, and of collisions at sea are valuable contributions to the literature of these subjects.

Sir James Stansfeld, who presided at the demonstration in Queen's Hall, London, in favor of arbitration in all disputes between the United States and Great Britain, has received a letter from Lord Salisbury acknowledging a receipt of a copy of the memorial adopted at the meeting. This letter is of unusual significance. In it the Prime Minister says: "I am glad to be able to inform you that this question is receiving the consideration of Her Majesty's government and that proposals in the direction indicated by the memorial are now before the government of the United States." The *London Daily News* says that this letter of the Prime Minister is the most hopeful word that has been heard from him for a long time. The *Chronicle* speaks in similar terms. It seems impossible for the United States government to decline to accept Great Britain's proposal. The only thing in the way is the Venezuela matter, and enough of the diplomatic proceedings has leaked out to indicate that a settlement of this is to be expected at any time. Great Britain has shown such a conciliatory spirit in the matter that an early peaceful adjustment is a moral certainty.

The New York Board of Trade and Transportation has sent to Congress the following appeal for a discontinuance of the disturbing attitude of the national legislature toward international questions:

The New York Board of Trade and Transportation respectfully submits to Congress that, in its judgment a discontinuance of disturbance of every character is of vital importance to a recovery from the present depressed condition into which all sections and every industry of the country are plunged; and that the heated discussion in Congress of international questions, involving menaces of war, following so closely upon our tariff agitation and financial difficulties, has, in the belief of the board, been highly detrimental to every interest of the nation, in that it has tended to keep the country in a continual turmoil.

Twenty States of the Union now have laws relative to